

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16, 19-41, 81-128 and 146-151 remain in the application. Claims 1-7, 13-16, 20-23, 25-32, 81-85, 90-94, 100-123 and 146-151 are readable on the elected species of Fig. 1. Claims 8-12, 19, 24, 33-41, 86-89, 95-99 and 124-128 are withdrawn. Claims 17, 18 and 42 have been canceled, as have withdrawn claims 43-80 and 129-145. In view of the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants retain the right to present claims 43-80 and 129-145 in a divisional application.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner rejected elected claims 1-7, 13-16, 20-23, 25-32, 81-85, 90-94 and 100-123 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by both Nishio et al and Shinohara et al. Both of these references disclose backlight systems including prism sheets having prisms thereon that both reflect and refract some of the light received from a backlight. However, neither discloses or suggests a transreflector including a plurality of reflective surfaces on or in a transparent substrate each having a reflective layer or covering for reflecting light striking one of the sides, and a plurality of light transmissive surfaces on or in the substrate for transmitting light striking one of the sides as recited in claim 1 as currently amended. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons. Moreover, claims 4, 6 and 7 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting other novel features in the claimed combination. Claim 4 recites that the substrate is a multilayer film comprised of a carrier film and an ultra-violet curable layer; claim 6 recites that the reflective surfaces and transmissive surfaces vary at least one of the following: size, shape, angle, and orientation; and

claim 7 recites that the deformities have at least two surfaces, one of the surfaces being the reflective surfaces each having the reflective layer or covering, and the other surfaces being the light transmissive surfaces.

Claim 13 is directed to a transreflector including a plurality of sloping reflective surfaces on or in the substrate each having a reflective layer or covering for reflecting light striking one side of the substrate, and a plurality of other sloping light transmissive surfaces on or in the substrate for transmitting light striking the other side of the substrate, similar to claim 1 and is also submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 14-16, 20-23 and 25-32 depend from claim 13 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons. Moreover, claims 14-16 further patentably distinguish over the cited references, claim 14 by reciting that the reflective surfaces are shaped, oriented or angled to reflect a greater portion of the light striking the one side of the substrate; claim 15 by reciting that the light transmissive surfaces are shaped, oriented or angled to transmit a greater portion of the light striking the other side of the substrate; and claim 16 by reciting that the reflective surfaces and the light transmissive surfaces are shaped, oriented or angled to respectively reflect a greater portion of the light striking the one side of the substrate and to transmit a greater portion of the light striking the other side of the substrate.

Claims 20-23 also further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the reflective surfaces have a substantially larger projected surface area, when projected onto a plane parallel to the substrate or normal to the angle of maximum intensity of the light striking the other side of the substrate, than the projected surface area of the light transmissive surfaces when projected onto a plane parallel to

the substrate or than the projected surface area of the reflective surfaces when projected onto a plane normal to the angle of maximum intensity of the light striking the other side of the substrate.

Claims 25-27 further patentably distinguish over the cited references, claim 25 by reciting that the light transmissive surfaces are textured or lensed to redirect the light passing through the light transmissive surfaces; claim 26 by reciting that the light transmissive surfaces have optical shapes on or in the light transmissive surfaces; and claim 27 by reciting that the light transmissive surfaces have an antireflection coating.

Claims 29-32 also further patentably distinguish over the cited references. Claim 29 recites that the reflective surfaces and the light transmissive surfaces are formed by a pattern of individual optical deformities on or in the substrate each having a length and width substantially smaller than the length and width of the substrate and having a well defined shape. Claims 30-32 recite that the reflective surfaces and the light transmissive surfaces are on or in the other side of the substrate and the one side of the substrate is shaped to redirect light. Also, claims 31 and 32 additionally recite that the one side of the substrate has at least one of a texture, and optical deformities shaped to redirect the light transmitted by the transreflector, and claim 32 additionally recites that the one side has optical deformities which comprise at least one of prismatic grooves, lenticular grooves, cross grooves, and individual optical elements or deformities of well defined shape.

Claims 81, 84 and 90 are directed to a transreflector and backlight system including *inter alia* a light emitting panel member having at least one panel surface for emitting light, and a transreflector having a plurality of light transmissive surfaces for

transmitting light emitted by the panel surface striking one side of the transreflector and a plurality of reflective surfaces each having a reflective layer or covering for reflecting ambient light striking the other side of the transreflector, in a manner also clearly nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Accordingly, claims 81, 84 and 90 are submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 82 and 83 depend from claim 81, claim 85 depends from claim 84, and claims 91-94 and 100-123 depend from claim 90 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons. Moreover, claims 91-93 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the reflective surfaces and/or the light transmissive surfaces are shaped, oriented or angled to respectively reflect more than 50% of the light striking one side of the transreflector and transmit more than 50% of the light striking the other side of the transreflector.

Claim 94 further patentably distinguishes over the cited references by reciting that the panel member has a pattern of individual optical deformities for producing a particular light output distribution from the panel surface that is tuned to the side of the transreflector that receives incident light emitted by the panel surface such that the transreflector transmits a greater portion of the light emitted by the panel surface.

Claims 100-102 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the reflective surfaces and light transmissive surfaces are in or on the one side of the transreflector, and the opposite side of the transreflector has optical deformities for redirecting the light exiting from the opposite side more toward the normal relative to the opposite side of the transreflector, which may comprise a pattern

of prismatic surfaces as recited in claim 101 or a pattern of individual optical deformities each having a well defined shape as recited in claim 102.

Claims 103 and 104 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the reflective surfaces and the light transmissive surfaces are in or on the one side of the transreflector, and the opposite side of the transreflector has at least one of a texture, chemical etch, laser etch, and optical deformities shaped to reflect the light transmitted by the transreflector. Also claim 104 additionally recites that the opposite side of the transreflector has the optical deformities which comprise at least one of prismatic grooves, lenticular grooves, cross grooves and individual optical deformities of well defined shape.

Claims 106 and 109 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the sloping surface of at least some of the deformities of the panel member is oriented to face an optically coupled area of the input edge across the panel member. Claim 107 further patentably distinguishes over the cited references by reciting that the area of the sloping surface of at least some of the deformities of the panel member varies across the panel member to obtain a desired light output distribution from the panel surface.

Claims 110-116 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that at least some of the deformities of the panel member are arranged in clusters across the panel member, wherein at least some of the deformities in each of the clusters have a different size characteristic that collectively produce an average size characteristic for each of the clusters that varies across the panel member as recited in claim 110 or a different shape characteristic that collectively produce an average shape

characteristic for each of the clusters that varies across the panel member as recited in claims 111-116. Claims 112-116 additionally recite that at least some of the deformities in each of the clusters either have a different depth or height, slope, orientation, width or length that collectively produce an average depth or height, slope characteristic, orientation characteristic, width characteristic or length characteristic for each of the clusters that varies across the panel member.

Claims 117 and 118 also further patentably distinguish over the cited references, claim 117 by reciting that the orientation of at least some of the deformities of the panel member varies across the panel member, and claim 118 by reciting that the deformities of the panel member are arranged in rows extending radially relative to an area of the input edge to which at least one light source is optically coupled.

New claims 146 and 147 depend from claim 1, new claims 148 and 149 depend from claim 13 and new claims 150 and 151 depend from claim 81 and are also submitted as clearly allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, this application is now believed to be in condition for final allowance of all of the pending elected claims 1-7, 13-16, 20-23, 25-32, 81-85, 90-94, 100-123, and 146-151 and early action to that end is earnestly solicited. Moreover, withdrawn claims 8-12 are dependent on elected claim 1; withdrawn claims 19, 24 and 33-41 are dependent on elected claim 13; withdrawn claims 86-89 are dependent on elected claim 84; withdrawn claims 95-99 are dependent on elected claim 90; and withdrawn claims 124-128 are dependent on elected claim 105. Accordingly, allowance of withdrawn claims 8-12, 19, 24, 33-41, 86-89, 95-99 and 124-128 is also respectfully requested. Should the Examiner disagree with applicants' attorney in any respect, it is

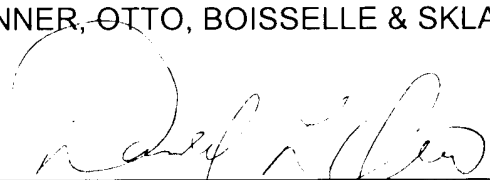
respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney in an effort to resolve such differences.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. GLOLP0113US).

Respectfully submitted,

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